

Appendix A

Required Report Elements and Compliance

California Wildlife: Conservation Challenges, which is California's comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy (the California Strategy), must address, at a minimum, eight required elements in written reports or Web publications. The eight required elements are listed below with an indication of where they are addressed.

1. Information on the distribution and abundance of species of wildlife, including low and declining populations, that is indicative of the diversity and health of the state's wildlife as the state fish and wildlife agency deems appropriate.

This element is addressed in Chapter 1, in the Species at Risk section of each regional chapter, and in the Wildlife Species Matrix on the Web at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habitats/wdp/matrix_search.asp.

The California Department of Fish and Game has a designated Special Animals List, also referred to as "species at risk" or "special status species." This list includes threatened and endangered species and species of special concern, as well as species that are rare or declining in numbers. Fish and Game prepares periodic assessments and status reports on threatened and endangered species. Fish and Game also conducts assessments and prepares reports on species of special concern. The Special Animals List is routinely updated and currently numbers about 800 taxa.

The Wildlife Diversity Project updated information for the nearly 800 special status species state-wide. This task was accomplished by conducting literature searches for each species on the Special Animals List, entering new occurrence information from journal articles, consulting species experts for opinions regarding the inclusion of additional rare or threatened species, and entering data from

the California Natural Diversity Database backlog of field survey forms and reports. The project then developed the Wildlife Species Matrix that includes information about those 800 species. The Wildlife Species Matrix lists the species at risk and provides the rarity ranking status, associated habitat, population trends, and range maps for each, where available.

The Species at Risk section in each regional chapter summarizes the numbers of species, endemic species, and species at risk that are associated with the region and included on the Special Animals List.

2. Descriptions of locations and relative condition of key habitats and community types essential to conservation of species at risk.

This element is addressed in the Stressors Affecting Wildlife and Habitats section of each regional chapter.

The Wildlife Diversity Project conducted regional scoping meetings and consulted regional experts to identify the major stressors affecting wildlife and habitats in each region. In the California Strategy, the key habitats and community types important for species at risk are discussed in the context of the major stressors affecting wildlife and habitats.

3. Descriptions of problems and threats that may adversely affect species at risk or their habitats, and priority research and survey work needed for restoration and conservation of these species and habitats.

Problems and threats affecting species are addressed in Chapter 2, Threats to Wildlife Diversity, and in the Stressors Affecting Wildlife and Habitats section of each regional chapter.

The discussion of priority research and survey needs appears in Chapter 4, Section 1, Resource Assessment. Additional research and survey work are important priorities for nearly all aspects of wildlife and conservation efforts throughout the state. With regard to research and survey work, the Department of Fish and Game chose to focus on wildlife and ecosystems monitoring and on the management of the data that contribute to resource assessment. Fish and Game established a new Resource Assessment Program (RAP) to coordinate and prioritize wildlife and ecosystem monitoring work. (See the RAP description on the Web at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habitats/RAP/default.html>.) RAP efforts that have contributed to the development of the California Strategy include:

- Conducting an initial survey to identify resource assessment activities of public and private institutions throughout the state (See Appendix I, page 485).
- Sponsoring, in partnership with the UC Davis Wildlife Health Center, a workshop on monitoring and assessment priorities. The participants represented various state and federal agencies, universities, and conservation organizations. The workshop goals were: 1) Identify key resource assessment and monitoring priorities in California; 2) Identify top biological issues to address

through monitoring; 3) Develop strategies for establishing and collaboratively implementing resource assessment priorities; and 4) Inform participants of the current resource assessment program efforts to increase opportunities for collaboration on future endeavors. (See the workshop results on the Web at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habitats/index.html>.)

4. Descriptions of conservation actions determined to be necessary to conserve the identified species and habitats, and priorities for implementing such actions.

This element is addressed in Chapter 3, Statewide Actions, and the Conservation Actions to Restore and Conserve Wildlife section of each regional chapter. The objectives and indicators of progress for conservation actions are appropriately considered in the local or regional efforts to implement those actions. Within the conservation actions, the likely lead public or private agencies or organizations are identified where appropriate. Only priority actions are presented in the California Strategy. Prioritization of conservation actions will continue as the California Strategy and its recommended actions are discussed further with agencies and partners likely to be involved in implementation.

5. Descriptions of the proposed plans for monitoring species at risk and their habitats, for monitoring the effectiveness of the conservation actions proposed in Element 4, and for adapting these conservation actions to respond appropriately to new information or changing conditions.

This element is addressed in Chapter 4, Section 1, Resource Assessment. It is not practical to monitor all species at risk and their habitats. It is important to strengthen the state's resource assessment capabilities so that it can better coordinate setting priorities for regional wildlife and habitat monitoring and design and implement efficient monitoring strategies. Fish and Game's resource assessment efforts will continue to identify priority regions, habitats, and species for field monitoring and direct resources toward those priorities. Emphasis is given to assessments of natural communities and assessments at a regional scale. For example, Fish and Game has identified oak woodlands in the Sierra Nevada foothills as a high priority for resource assessment; oak woodlands are one of the most biodiverse natural communities, and this area is also experiencing significant development pressures. The results of these coordinated resource assessment efforts will reveal the effectiveness of one or more conservation actions in a given region.

The monitoring plans for assessing the effectiveness of specific conservation actions are appropriately formulated within the development process for those specific actions. Many of the conservation actions recommended in the California Strategy will be developed further through workshops and public processes. Implementation plans for those actions will include monitoring and adaptive management plans as needed. For example, the California Strategy recommends the completion and implementation of some regional conservation planning efforts, such as the West Mojave Plan. Plans for the monitoring of

species and habitats and for monitoring the effectiveness of conservation actions, including procedures for adaptive management, are incorporated into such regional conservation plans.

6. Descriptions of procedures to review the strategy at intervals not to exceed 10 years.

This element is addressed in the Introduction to the report. Fish and Game will establish a Special Projects Team to monitor and facilitate the implementation of conservation actions recommended in this report.

7. Description of the plans for coordinating, to the extent feasible, the development, implementation, review, and revision of the strategy with federal, state, and local agencies and Indian tribes that manage significant land and water areas within the state or administer programs that significantly affect the conservation of identified species and habitats.

This element is addressed in the Introduction to the report and in Appendix B.

8. Description of the necessary public participation in the development, revision, and implementation of the strategy.

This element is addressed in Appendix B of the report.